THE PULSE

News of the
New England Deaconess Hospital Employees

December, 1949 Vol. 4, No. 12

Wishing You
A Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Christmas is almost here again. All of us look eagerly forward to this greatest of anniversaries; however, with adults Christmastime often becomes a time or anxiety — even dread — instead of a season of tranquility and peace. The habit of giving gifts, accelerated as it is by the drive of commercial display and salesmanship, is almost irresistible. It requires a unique type of strength of character to keep Christmas simple and real, as its meaning implies.

Statisticians have calculated that one hundred years ago the average person had about 72 wants, of which 16 were necessities; whereas, the average person today has 484 wants, of which 94 are rated as necessities. Furthermore, one hundred years ago there were not more than 200 items urged upon the average man by the seller, whereas today there are something like 32,000. A home containing all the modern inventions and improvements available today would have a grand total of at least 100 separate mechanisms. The total number of items sold today, including different brands of one type of article, reaches the dizzy heights of approximately 360,000.

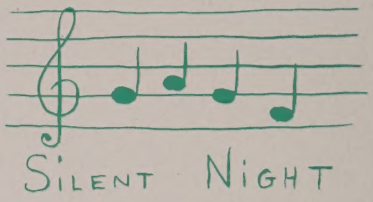
A state of civilization such as this gives very special point to the phrase of Emerson, "To be simple is to be great," for indeed it requires an unusual kind of greatness to be simple in days when complexity spins about us like a whirlpool drawing us toward a vortex of endless wants and mechanisms.

Christmas, of all seasons, should be a time of simplicity, yet again we are tempted to make it a time of display and bazaar, far from its original meaning. Shall we not all do our part to make this day one of simplicity and charm and gentle happiness, as against a day of anxiety and commercial display.

WARREN F. COOK,
Executive Director

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Be sure to remember Friday afternoon, December 23rd, between two and five o'clock for the annual Christmas Party. It will be held this year in Harris Hall rather than away from the hospital. On the first floor, in the large living room, there will be entertainment — with an almost continuous show so you'll all have a chance to see it. And there'll be refreshments served downstairs in the



Special Nurses' Dining Room. We have even heard that Santa Claus will be there. Service pins will be awarded at three o'clock upstairs. This is a party for everyone who works here. We wish we could invite outsiders — but you know there just isn't room. Don't be afraid to come in uniform — many will not have a chance to dress up. Your department head or immediate supervisor will arrange for you to attend if you are on duty.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

As has been our custom for several years, all employees of the hospital may be guests of the hospital for Christmas dinner. It will be served from 11:15 A. M. to 1:15 P. M. If you wish to accept this invitation, please notify the head of your department by Tuesday, December 20th. A guest ticket will be given to you, and your relatives and friends who come with you will be served for $1.50 each.

COMMUNITY FUND

Our quota of $3000 was reached — and we even went over the top with a total of $3,091.60! Many thanks to all who contributed — doctors, employees, and friends of the hospital. We are greatly pleased with the cooperation received and wish also to thank the department heads and supervisors who worked so diligently as solicitors for the hospital. All the gifts counted — both the large and the small — so everyone who pledged shared in our success.

SERVICE AWARDS

At the Christmas party in Harris Hall on Friday afternoon at three o'clock, service pins will be awarded by Dr. Cook to the following people:

25-year Pins

Ada Hamlyn
Orianna Harding
Howard Lewis
Ella Needham
Herbert C. Robinson
Ruth A. Sherman
Patrick Sullivan

20-Year Pins

Mary E. Connolly
Warren F. Cook
Abbie Kane
Maude B. Maher
Isabel Smith
Catherine V. Waters

15-year Pins

Ann Burke
Timothy Casey
Mary Flaherty
Alice Osgood

10-year Pins

Dorothy V. Blanchard
Ann Cotter
Gladys R. Harrison
Margaret M. Kerrigan

5-year Pins

Ellen Adams
Josephine Connolly
Lucy S. Durst
Ruth E. Eastman
Walter C. Emery
Lucinda C. Fairbanks
Adelina Fuller
Catherine F. Galvin
Bettie Lou Howell
Gertrude Kimball
Mary C. Leo
Helen F. Logan
Mary McManus
Olive L. Nelson
Mary E. Parkins
Mildred E. Pinkham
Margaret M. Shrader
Jane Sorenson
M. Evelyn Wright

If you are receiving a 10, 15, 20, or 25-year pin, please return the pin you now have to the Personnel Office.

SAFETY CONFERENCES

Because our sick and accident rate for hospital workers zoomed upward this year, the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation has been most helpful in sponsoring safety confer-

ences for all supervisors. Mr. Edward S. Pyne has conducted four series which consisted of five one-hour classes. Mr. Pyne has cooperated wholeheartedly with the hospital. If anyone has a suggestion that will make this a safer place to work — why not jot it down and drop it in the suggestion box. Safety suggestions are valuable to all and you might win an award.

CREDIT UNION

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Alpha Credit Union was held on November 15th. The Treasurer reported a cash balance of $2,039.93. The Credit Committee reported that 32 loans were made during the past year, amounting to $3,390.00. Of this amount $2,438.16 was outstanding and the total interest collected was $191.65 as of October 31, 1949.

BY LAND, SEA, AND AIR

Because we had so much copy last month, it was necessary to cut the impressions of the nurses who attended the International Nurses Conference in Sweden about their trips abroad. This month we will give you the write-ups by Miss Margaret M. Shrader, Superintendent of Nurses and Principal of the School of Nursing, and Miss Florence R. Brown, head of the Department of Surgery:

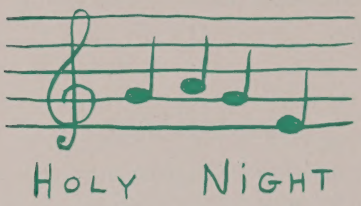
"In any unusual experience such as a trip abroad there are certain outstanding impressions. Apart from the Conference, I was particularly impressed with Switzerland: the beauty and tranquil restfulness of Lucerne, the majesty and the austerity of Grand St. Bernard Mountain, and the very friendly Swiss folk. The Scandinavian cleanliness and the breath-taking scenery, especially in Norway, appealed very much; the Danish sculpture was unique. Holland's picturesque Marken Isle Vollendam, and town of Monikendam made me think I was really stepping into a story-book.

"But the spirit of British people tugged most strongly at my heart-strings. I could not wonder at their great devotion to their rolling hills and sunlit lakes; their trim cozy gardens; their thatched roofed, stone, and Tudor houses; nor at their justified pride in their traditions. Despite the wartime deprivations and the lack of conveniences, I never once heard a word of complaint. No manual labor seemed too menial for them in their mass effort toward reconstruction.

"I have never appreciated the United States — and our Deaconess — so much as I did on my return. The privileges I have taken so much for granted were made manifest one by one, and I realized how very fortunate I am to be associated here."

— MARGARET M. SHRADER

"France to me was a country of history. Marie Antoinette and the Palace of Versailles; Napoleon, Emperor and Conqueror, living at Fontainbleau amidst treasures of art and culture; Barbazon, home of the French school of painting; Paris, city of churches, center of fashion, carnival spirit and of simple industrious people, to me always hurrying and seemingly a little mad but actually only very much alive with a pattern and a purpose which through the centuries has produced the grandeur of the opera house, the magnificence of the Champs



Elysees, the simplicity of the Eiffel Tower, the futility of the Arch of Triumph glorifying victory in war with the perpetual light guarding its price; and the nobility of Notre Dame."

— FLORENCE R. BROWN

BLUE CROSS AND BLUE SHIELD MEMBERSHIP

December 12 is the deadline for applications for membership in our Blue Cross and Blue Shield group to be effective January 20, 1950. Persons employed since September 20, 1949 are eligible. Please come to the Personnel Office *immediately* and fill out the necessary cards.

Effective January 1, 1950, Ward Plan Blue Cross will be withdrawn from sale. This does not affect present ward plan subscribers. However, if you are a ward plan member and wish to change to semi-private membership, you may make out an adjustment card in the Personnel Office before December 12. Hereafter, this change may be made only in April and October of each year.

Each time an enrollment date and a quarterly deduction rolls around, confusion rolls right along with it. Here is some general information which should help clear up some questions and prevent disappointment in case of hospitalization of members. Any further questions will be answered in the Personnel Office.

1. Applications for membership or change in an existing membership must be in the hands of Blue Cross 30 days before our deduction dates — which are January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20.

2. Old employees (employed three months or more) may join Blue Cross or Blue Shield, or add Blue Shield to an existing Blue Cross membership, only twice a year — in April and October. These people may, however, transfer from direct payment to our group, or from individual to family membership at any of the four dates.

3. New employees may join Blue Cross and-or Blue Shield, or transfer an existing membership to our group, the first deduction date after employment.

4. If a member marries, Blue Cross must be notified within 60 days of date of marriage, and the membership changed from individual to family plan. If our next quarterly deduction is more than 60 days from date of marriage, an adjustment card must be sent to Blue Cross immediately and an effective date for family membership assigned. This effective date is very important, in that the 12-month waiting period for maternity benefits dates from it.

5. To insure continuous protection for a dependent child covered by a family membership, application for a separate membership for him should be made at least 30 days in advance of his 19th birthday or marriage.

6. After three months of employment the hospital pays half the Blue Cross and-or Blue Shield premiums.

7. In case of hospitalization of an employee who is a member of Blue Cross, the hospital wil pay complete hospital expenses and full salary for three weeks of hospitalization. If an employee is not a Blue Cross member and is hospitalized, he pays for everything Blue Cross does not cover and receives full salary for only as many sick days as he has coming — up to twelve.

DIETARY

Mrs. Louise Prendergast gave a farewell party for Ida Kane who is leaving Boston to make her home in California. Ida's friends from Harris Hall presented her a bauquet made of 25 new dollar bills.

Bill Gibson once again took several blue ribbons at the Caged Bird Show held at the Mechanics Building on November 25.

Stella Hanlon has been a patient at MGH and we hope she will be back at the Deaconess soon — and not as a patient.

MAINTENANCE

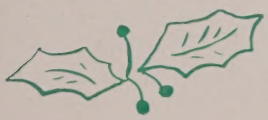
A neat swap was just arranged in the Maintenance Department. It's good news that James Banks is out of the hospital and back at work. It seems best for him to do lighter work than plastering so he and Hugh F. McFarland are changing jobs. Mr. McFarland was one of our night watchmen and had been a plasterer at one time — so we have a new night watchman and a new plasterer without a change in personnel.

NURSING

Pauline Gerner, '49 Senior will be married to Mr. Donald Scott on Saturday, December third. Doris Nichols of the same class has set the date for January first, and Barbara Willis shortly thereafter.

Engagement rings have been appearing in bunches! Recent new ones are worn by Marilyn Sabine, Marion Pulsifer, Irma Hunt, Ruth Churchill, and Mary Sherman.

There are three new alumnae babies since last edition: a girl to Mrs. Helen Hastings McElwee, a boy to Mrs. Charlotte Mason Bent, and a girl to Mrs. Mary Coombs Brown.



Welcome to Miss Geraldine Allard, Palmer II and also to Ruth Porter, Baker V.

We understand Greta Garland is employed at Smith College Infirmary and that Amy Cook is working at the University of Cincinnati Hospital — both are '48 Juniors.

SURGERY

We hope that Betty Poole is feeling better after her recent visit here in the hospital — and that Kay O'Donnell is fully recovered and will soon be back again.

Marion Gibb became Mrs. Clinton Marshall in October. Geraldine Stannard has announced her marriage and is now Mrs. Geraldine Gerry. Norma Perry, one of our aides, has acquired a lovely new diamond. We wish her happiness in the forthcoming marriage.

Betty Worth Johnson and her husband announce the birth of a son in October; Peggy Brickett Sawyer, Lynn Sawyer Morse, and "Gussie" Gustafson Goodrum are all proud mothers.

We extend our sympathy to Lorraine Studer in the recent loss of her sister-in-law.

We are becoming much-traveled people these days. Natalie Tompkins has spent the past two months in California; Louella Dickerson has just returned from Florida; Helen Jimoulis has been seeing the sights of New York City; Bea Starns and Lois Baird are about to take off to Chicago for a few days, and Miss Brown has just returned from Chicago and Detroit where she visited some of the large hospitals.

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Illustrator ..... MARJORIE POND

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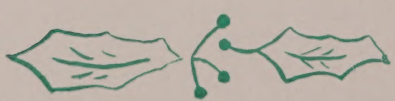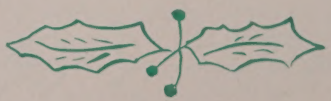
X-ray ..... LOIS MOSHER